

**SPECIAL Town Council Meeting
Monday, April 15, 2019**

Generated by Cindy A Porrini on Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Members present

Chris Barnes, Shari Cantor, Leon Davidoff, Dallas Dodge, Beth Kerrigan, Liam Sweeney, Ben Wenograd, Chris Williams

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM

1. Meeting Opening

A. Meeting Called to Order

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call Councilor Fay was absent.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Town Council Minutes 3-26-2019

APPROVED

Motion by Beth Kerrigan, second by Leon Davidoff.

YES: Chris Barnes, Shari Cantor, Leon Davidoff, Dallas Dodge, Beth Kerrigan, Liam Sweeney, Ben Wenograd, Chris Williams

B. Public Hearing Budget Minutes 3-21-2019

APPROVED

Motion by Beth Kerrigan, second by Leon Davidoff.

YES: Chris Barnes, Shari Cantor, Leon Davidoff, Dallas Dodge, Beth Kerrigan, Liam Sweeney, Ben Wenograd, Chris Williams

3. Public Forum

No one spoke

4. Consideration of Consent Calendar

NONE

5. Unfinished Business

A. Resolution (Hart) Authorizing the Execution of an Easement in Favor of Eversource Energy. (1013)

ADOPTED, 8-0

Motion by Beth Kerrigan, second by Leon Davidoff.

YES: Chris Barnes, Shari Cantor, Leon Davidoff, Dallas Dodge, Beth Kerrigan, Liam Sweeney, Ben Wenograd, Chris Williams

WHEREAS Connecticut Light & Power doing business as Eversource Energy is planning a Transmission Line Project from Newington to Hartford which was approved by the Connecticut Siting Council on February 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS the project requires Eversource Energy to obtain a temporary easement across Town-owned land in order to access the property upon which a portion of the transmission line will be located; and

WHEREAS providing the proposed easement across Town-owned land will not cause any harm to the Town's property interests,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT the Town Manager is hereby authorized to execute an easement in favor of the Connecticut Light and Power Company doing business as Eversource Energy in substantially the form attached hereto.

(Easement on File in Town Clerk's Office)

6. New Business

A. Application filed on behalf of 527 Prospect LLC, owner of 527 Prospect Avenue, to amendment SDD #123 to permit an approximately 984 s.f., two story addition for expanded office space. Associated landscaping, parking and drainage improvements are proposed. (1004)

(This agenda item will be the subject of a public hearing and may not be addressed during Public Forum pursuant to Town Council Rules.)

SET FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 28, 2019 AT 7:15 PM IN THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER AND REFERRED TO TPZ, DRAC, AND CRCOG.

Motion by Beth Kerrigan, second by Leon Davidoff.

YES: Chris Barnes, Shari Cantor, Leon Davidoff, Dallas Dodge, Beth Kerrigan, Liam Sweeney, Ben Wenograd, Chris Williams

B. Resolution (Cantor, Barnes, Kerrigan, Davidoff, Dodge, Sweeney, Wenograd, Williams) Regarding The Metropolitan District Commission User Fee Study. (86)

ADOPTED, 8-0

Motion by Beth Kerrigan, second by Leon Davidoff.

Chris Barnes, Shari Cantor, Leon Davidoff, Dallas Dodge, Beth Kerrigan, Liam Sweeney, Ben Wenograd, Chris Williams

WHEREAS the current ad valorem system of taxation used by the Metropolitan District Commission ("MDC") to fund its sanitary sewer services has long been perceived as inequitable by several of the member municipalities, including West Hartford; and

WHEREAS federal regulations prohibit the use of ad valorem systems such as the system employed by the MDC except for a few systems that are "grandfathered" under those regulations; and

WHEREAS the MDC established a user group in 2018 to evaluate alternatives to the current ad valorem system; and

WHEREAS the user group process led to the development of a Sewer User Charge Study that was completed for the MDC by Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. and released on February 26, 2019; and

WHEREAS the Raftelis study clearly demonstrates that the MDC's current "modified ad valorem" tax is unfair and disproportionate because property owners in every other MDC member town pay 10% to 56% more than the average homeowner in Hartford for comparable sewer use; and

WHEREAS this disparity is greatest in West Hartford, where the average property owner pays \$264 more annually for sewer service than their Hartford counterpart; and

WHEREAS the Raftelis study examines six options including a user fee based on water consumption ("Option C"); and

WHEREAS Option C best meets the evaluation criteria established for the study, consisting of customer rate impact, equitability, affordability, revenue stability, and cost/administrative burden; and

WHEREAS Option C is most consistent with modern industry standards and federal regulations; and

WHEREAS Option C would allow the MDC to establish a low-income user fee to benefit low income residents across the entire district; and

WHEREAS Option C would provide budgetary relief and enhance our economic competitiveness as a region; and

WHEREAS Option C would increase accountability for both the MDC and its customers; and

WHEREAS the MDC has long employed a user fee as the preferred method of funding the cost of its drinking water service so conversion from the modified ad valorem system to Option C would not carry the burden of converting to an entirely new billing system

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT the MDC is hereby urged to allow the user group to:

1. Continue evaluating the elimination of the current modified ad valorem system in favor of implementing a user fee for sanitary sewer services as is evaluated in Option C;
2. Develop a detailed model for a user fee system consistent with federal regulations, including the establishment of a low income user fee; and
3. Determine a schedule by which conversion to a user fee system could be completed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Town of West Hartford urges each MDC member municipality to join in this request to the MDC.

C. Resolution (Hart) To Receive A Donation Of Two Police Canines And Accept An Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant In The Amount Of \$10,000 For The Purchase Of Associated Equipment. (195)

ADOPTED, 8-0

Motion by Beth Kerrigan, second by Leon Davidoff.
Chris Barnes, Shari Cantor, Leon Davidoff, Dallas Dodge, Beth Kerrigan, Liam Sweeney, Ben Wenograd, Chris Williams

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police Department has a demonstrated need for the services of K-9 units for the purposes of officer safety, criminal apprehension, tracking, building searches, area searches, article recovery, deterring crime, locating missing persons, and community relations events, and

WHEREAS, the cost of two pre-trained specialized police K-9s, required training to acquaint the two K-9s with the dedicated handlers, and veterinary services to inspect the incoming dogs is \$32,000, and

WHEREAS, a generous benefactor has donated \$32,000 to Our Heroes Fund Inc. to fund the purchase of two K-9s for the Town of West Hartford, and

WHEREAS, the cost of associated equipment, including two heat alert systems, one K-9 insert to modify the back seat area of a police vehicle, one mobile data terminal, and one rifle ballistic vest, is \$10,000, and

WHEREAS, the West Hartford Police Department applied for and was awarded an Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula Grant in the amount of \$10,000 to be used for the purchase of police K-9 program equipment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of West Hartford does hereby accept the donation of two police canines, authorizes the use of the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant for the purchase of related equipment, and amends the fiscal year 2018-2019 General Fund budget as follows:

Estimated Revenue

01-220220-20401-9070	Justice Assistance Grant	\$10,000
----------------------	--------------------------	----------

Appropriations

01-220220-20401-2070	Equipment	\$10,000
----------------------	-----------	----------

D. Resolution (Hart) To Accept A Connecticut Community Connectivity Grant In The Amount Of \$103,085 For The West Hartford Bicycle Network Shared Route Implementation. (900)

ADOPTED, 8-0

Motion by Beth Kerrigan, second by Leon Davidoff.
Chris Barnes, Shari Cantor, Leon Davidoff, Dallas Dodge, Beth Kerrigan, Liam Sweeney, Ben Wenograd, Chris Williams

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford applied for and was awarded funds by the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Connecticut Community Connectivity Grant Program in the amount of \$103,085 to improve accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians, and

WHEREAS, the objective of this program is to make conditions safer and more accommodating for pedestrians and cyclists, thereby encouraging more people to use these healthy and environmentally sustainable modes of travel, and

WHEREAS, the Town of West Hartford desires to utilize such funds for sharrow (shared-lane) pavement markings and "Share the Road" signage throughout West Hartford,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD THAT grant funds under the Connecticut Community Connectivity Grant Program are appropriated for the purpose of sharrow markings and road signage in accordance with the terms of the grant, and the fiscal year 2018-2019 Capital Projects Fund budget is amended as follows:

Increase Estimated Revenue

41-871945-80003-9071	State Grant Revenue	\$103,085
----------------------	---------------------	-----------

Increase Appropriations

41-871945-80003-3070	Traffic System Improvements	\$103,085
----------------------	-----------------------------	-----------

7. Reports of Town Manager
Town Manager Matthew W. Hart presented his report to the Council.

8. Announcements
Upcoming events were reported by Mayor Cantor.

9. Reports of Corporation Counsel
NONE

10. Appointments
APPROVED
Motion by Shari Cantor, second by Beth Kerrigan.

Substance Abuse Prevention Commission:
Howard Dashefsky appointed for a term ending 8-31-2020.

Commission on Veterans' Affairs:
William Molloy appointed for a term ending 12-31-2021.

West Hartford-University of Hartford Scholarship Fund:
Ron VanWinkle reappointed for a term ending 12-31-2021.

11. Reports of Standing or Special Committees
NONE

12. Consent Calendar
NONE

13. Communications
NONE

14. Petitions
NONE

15. Executive Session

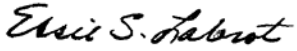
NONE

16. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:42 PM

17. Suspense Items

NONE

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Essie S. Labrot".

Essie S. Labrot
Town Clerk/Council Clerk

APPROVED AT APRIL 23, 2019 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING